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Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council



**REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR 1952


L. A. M. JOHNSTON,
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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Public Health Department,
Houghton-le-Spring.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I herewith present my Sixteenth Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions and Vital Statistics in the Urban District of Houghton-le-Spring for the year 1952. Incorporated therein is the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The progress of house building by direct labour by the Council continued to make satisfactory progress and again a number of houses were erected by private enterprise for owner-occupiers without affecting the number erected by the Council.

This opportunity is taken of expressing gratitude for the loyal co-operation of fellow-officers and the whole-hearted support of the Council in every endeavour to improve the conditions of the district and prevent disease.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

L. A. M. JOHNSTON,

To the Chairman and Members,
of the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

The Staff consists of:—

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. Whole time conjoint appointment (see below). Degrees of B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B. D.P.H, (St. Andrews).

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods. Also acts as Factory and Workshops Inspector and Inspector under the Shops Act.

TWO ASSISTANT SANITARY INSPECTORS. Whole time. Only one holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER. Whole time. Fellow of Surveyors' Institute and holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

The Medical Officer of Health is also the Medical Officer of Health for Hetton and Washington Urban Districts and Assistant Medical Officer for Durham County Council.

Other Health Services.

The following Health Services are administered by the County Council as the responsible Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act.

Ambulance	Domestic Helps
Home Nursing	Health Visitors
Vaccination	Child Welfare and Maternity
Immunisation against	School Medical
Diphtheria	Welfare of the Aged.
	Welfare of the blind

The County Council are also responsible for the administration of Part III of the National Insurance Act, 1948.

FOOD AND DRUG INSPECTORS. Are also appointed by and work under the direction of the County Council.

VETERINARY INSPECTORS. Are fully qualified men appointed by and working under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture—being responsible for carrying out routine examination of the cow population throughout the County in order to maintain and raise the standard of the health of said cows.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area in acres—5,026 acres.

Registrar General's Estimate of resident population—mid 1952—30,860.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952) according to Rate Books—10,029.

Rateable Value, £122,794.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £461.

Whilst as for many years the chief industry in the Area is that of Coal Mining there are various subsidiary industries, the chief being agriculture, and the district retains its reputation of a comparatively large number of excellent dairy farms. Out of a total number of 23 farms 8 are producing Tuberculin Tested Milk and 1 Accredited Milk, the numbers thus producing graded milk increasing annually.

The importance of the production of pure milk and its effect on the Public Health cannot be over emphasised.

General trading and house erection have provided employment for a considerable number of the populace not engaged in mining or agriculture.

Four factories have been erected on a new trading estate at Fence Houses and preparations are well in hand for further development when materials and economic conditions permit.

The four completed are being utilised for the manufacture of (a) suitcases, trunks, etc.; (b) gowns; (c) woodworking machinery; and (d) electrical apparatus—recorder clocks, instruments, etc. A fifth firm is working in Fence Houses Miners' Hall producing gowns and anxiously awaiting the opportunity to occupy a fifth factory when same is available.

Vital Statistics

Births and Birth Rate.

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar-General for outward and inward transfers) during 1952 was 579 as compared with 608 for 1951.

Sex and legitimacy classification are shown thus:

Total Male Female

Live	{	Legitimate	562	291	271	{	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated populat'n 12.21
Births		Illegitimate	17	9	8		

The Registrar-General states the Birth Rate per 1,000 population in England and Wales (live births) was 15.3 for 1952.

The following table shows (1) the total number of births, (2) the number of males born, (3) the number of females born, (4) the birth rate per 1,000 population and (5) the total increase of population (i.e. the excess of births over deaths) for 1952 as compared with the years 1944–1952.

Year	Total births	Males	Females	Rate per 1,000	Total increase
1944	561	296	265	20.70	240
1945	499	251	248	18.28	189
1946	636	318	318	22.32	298
1947	642	324	318	22.24	339
1948	635	342	293	21.63	313
1949	577	288	289	19.32	229
1950	612	335	277	20.11	266
1951	608	286	322	19.87	268
1952	579	300	279	12.21	249

Still Births—During 1952 there were 14 still births in the district.

		Total	Male	Female	
Still Births	Legitimate	14	8	6	
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	

giving a Rate of 12.08 per 1,000 total (live and still births) births

There is a still birth rate per 1,000 population of 0.47 in the district as compared with 0.35 for England and Wales.

Deaths and Death Rate.

The Registrar-General reports that after correction for outward and inward transfers, 348 residents in the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District died, being 200 males and 148 females.

Locally compiled and correct figures are as follows:—

During 1952 there were 237 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, being 134 males and 103 females. Of these 6 males and 4 females did not normally reside in the area, therefore 128 males and 99 females having their permanent residence within the district died therein. 72 males and 49 females whose permanent residence was within the area died outside it. The total number of deaths therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers, is 348, being 200 males and 148 females.

The death rate corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and all ages was 11.21, the population at mid-year 1952, being estimated at 30,860. That for 1951 was 11.11.

Total Deaths under Five Years (corrected locally)

During 1952, 27 children died under the age of five years, as against 21 in 1951. Therefore 7.75 per cent of the total deaths was of children under five years of age, as against 6.17 per cent in 1951.

Deaths in Institutions.

Of the 121 residents who died outside the district, 3 died in private houses, 2 following their employment in the mine, 1 collapsed in the roadway and 1 committed suicide by drowning and the remaining 114 died in Institutions as follows:—

General Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	...	58
Monkwearmouth Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	...	1
Royal Infirmary, Sunderland	...	...	...	20
Maternity Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	...	12
Children's Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	...	1
Cameron Hospital, West Hartlepool	...	...	...	1
Percy House, Neville's Cross, Durham	...	...	...	2
St. John of God's Hospital, Scorton	...	...	...	1
General Hospital, Ryhope	...	...	...	7
50 Portrack Lane, Stockton	...	...	...	1
Winterton House, Sedgefield	...	...	...	2
Shotley Bridge Hospital	...	...	...	1
Hardwick Hall, Sedgefield	...	...	...	1
Leeholme, Easington	...	...	...	2
Thorpe Maternity Hospital, Easington	...	...	...	1
R.V.I., Newcastle	...	...	...	1
Princess Mary's Maternity Hospital, Newcastle	...	...	...	1
The Colony, Langho, Billington, Blackburn	...	...	...	1

25 residents died in Heath House, therefore, of the total of 348 deaths of residents, 139 or 39.94 per cent occurred in Institutions.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes. (Heading 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list.)

There were no deaths among women from puerperal sepsis or from other puerperal causes.

Comparison between Houghton-le-Spring and England and Wales.

	Houghton- le-Spring	England & Wales
Death Rate per 1,000 (live and still)		
births from Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.00	0.09
Death Rate per 1,000 (live and still)		
births from Other Puerperal Causes	0.00	0.20

Death Rate of Infants under One Year.

24 children died during 1952, before attaining the age of 1 year, being 13 legitimate males and 11 legitimate females equivalent to an infantile mortality rate of 41.45 (per 1,000 live births).

During 1951 18 children died before attaining one year of age.

The following table shows the death rate of infants under one year of age according to the total number of live births and legitimacy for the years 1943-1952.

		All Infants per 1000 live births		Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births		Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births
1943	...	57.6	...	50.85	...	41.7
1944	...	57.04	...	58.38	...	30.33
1945	...	54.10	...	54.73	...	41.66
1946	...	44.02	...	42.55	...	40.00
1947	...	38.94	...	37.33	...	76.92
1948	...	50.39	...	50.00	...	71.43
1949	...	53.91	...	53.47	...	62.5
1950	...	39.21	...	38.14	...	111.11
1951	...	29.60	...	27.96	...	111.11
1952	...	41.45	...	41.45	...	00.00

Of the 24 infants who died under one year of age, the cause of death was attributable to congenital malformation, prematurity and debility in 11 cases, giving a percentage of 45.83.

The following table shows in detail the amount and causes of infantile deaths, under 1 year, during 1952, also the number of deaths at various ages viz:— 8 under one day, 3 between one and two days, 1 between two and three days, 1 between three and four days, 1 between four and five days, 1 between five and six days, 1 between seven and fourteen days, 1 between twenty-one and twenty-eight days, 1 between twenty-eight days and two months, 1 between three and four months, 2 between four and five months, 1 between five and six months, 1 between six and seven months and 1 between seven and eight months.

Since the total deaths from all causes and at all ages in the district was 348, 6.89 per cent of the total deaths were of children under one year of age. Of these under one year of age, 62.5 per cent were under one week and 70.83 per cent under four weeks of age.

Neo-Natal Mortality.

The deaths of infants under four weeks during 1952, numbered 12,331 representing a provisional rate of 18.9 per 1,000 related live births. 17 children under four weeks died in the area, representing a rate of 29.36 per 1,000 related live births.

Nett Live Births—Legitimate				Illegitimate			
		Males Females				Males Females	
Corrected as per Registrar General ...	}	291	271	9	8	=	579
Nett Deaths ...		13	11	—	—	=	24

During 1952 there were 303 deaths certified by registered medical practitioners (13 of the deceased so certified having post mortems performed on them) 8 deaths were certified by the Coroner after post mortems and inquest, 18 by the Coroner after inquest (with post mortems), and 19 were uncertified.

The ratio of deaths (at all ages and corrected) in the various wards is shown in the following two tables, the first showing the number of deaths which occurred in each ward (and in the district) during each of the four quarters, i.e. Seasonal incidence, and the second showing the age distribution of the deaths in the various wards.

Table I. Seasonal Incidence.

Ward	1st Qtr.		2nd Qtr.		3rd Qtr.		4th Qtr.		Total
Houghton	...	42	...	35	...	21	...	28	126
Penshaw	...	22	...	14	...	15	...	25	76
Newbottle	...	16	...	11	...	7	...	13	47
Fence Houses	...	20	...	15	...	7	...	16	58
Herrington	...	4	...	19	...	7	...	11	41
Totals	...	104	...	94	...	57	...	93	348

Table II. Age Incidence.

Ward.	Under 1 year		1-2 years.		2-3 years		3-4 years.		4-5 years.		5-15 years.		15-25 years.		25-45 years.		45-65 years.		65-75 years.		75 years & over.		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Houghton	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	4	1	15	9	17	12	33	29	74	25
Penshaw	6	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	8	9	11	13	15	10	42	34
Newbottle	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	7	9	5	5	6	6	23	24
F. Houses	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	10	5	18	5	5	9	35	23
Herrington	2	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	10	5	5	3	5	4	26	15
Total	13	11	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	13	4	50	37	56	38	64	58	200	148

During 1952, there was one death from "infantile" diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).

Comparative Table:

No. of Deaths in Houghton-le-Spring.											
Population 1952—30,860											
Year	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyph'd	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fev.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea	under 2 yrs	Total
1943	338	0	0	0	1	0	4	8	2	15	
1944	321	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	1	10	
1945	310	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	
1946	338	0	0	1	0	1	1	8	1	12	
1947	303	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	
1948	323	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	8	
1949	348	0	0	1	0	1	0	7	4	13	
1950	346	0	0	2	0	2	0	2	3	9	
1951	340	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	2	13	
1952	348	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	1	6	

Death Rates in Houghton-le-Spring per 1000 population as compared with those for England and Wales.													
Ho—Houghton-le-Spring; EW—England and Wales.													
All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyph'd Fevers	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fev.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza						
Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW	Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW	Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW	Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW	Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW	Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW	Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW	Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW Ho EW						
12.77	12.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.15	0.03	0.30	0.37
11.84	11.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.15	0.02	0.12	0.18
11.35	11.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.08
11.86	11.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.28	0.15
10.49	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.10	0.09
11.03	10.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.06	0.00	0.03
11.7	11.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.15
11.4	11.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.9	0.00	0.00	0.10
11.11	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.36
11.21	11.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.04

Death Rates in Houghton-le-Spring per 1000 population as compared with those for England and Wales.

Ho—Houghton-le-Spring; EW—England and Wales.

All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyph'd	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fev.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza
Ho EW	Ho EW	Ho EW	Ho EW	Ho EW	Ho EW	Ho EW	Ho EW
12.77	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.03
11.84	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03
11.35	11.4	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.02
11.86	11.5	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.02
10.49	12.0	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
11.03	10.8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06
11.7	11.7	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03
11.4	11.6	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06
11.11	12.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
11.21	11.3	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Causes of Death in Houghton-le-Spring Urban District during 1952.

Causes of Death.					Male		Female
All Causes	...	...	...	...	200	...	148
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	3	...	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	3	...	0
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
8. Measles	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	7	...	11
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	8	...	0
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	0	...	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	...	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	15	...	9
15. Leukaemia aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	27	...	27
18. Coronary disease angina	...	...	...	...	28	...	17
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	6	...	4
20. Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	20	...	29
21. Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	5	...	1
22. Influenza	...	...	...	...	3	...	0
23. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	9	...	4
24. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	11	...	7
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	1	...	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	4	...	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	...	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	2	...	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	3	...	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
31. Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	4	...	0
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	29	...	21
33. Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	1	..	—
34. All other accidents	...	...	...	...	5	...	2
35. Suicide	...	...	...	...	4	...	2
36. Homicide and operations of War	...	...	...	...	—	...	—

The following table shows the Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases for the year 1952 for England and Wales, 160 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London. 160 Smaller Towns including Houghton-le-Spring, (Resident Population 25,000 to 30,000), compared with those for Houghton-le-Spring.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality
and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1952.
Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England & Wales	160 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	160 Smaller Towns (Resd't populat'ns 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	Houghton-le-Spring Urban District
Rates per 1,000 Home Population					
BIRTHS—					
Live	15.3	16.9	15.5	17.6	12.21
Still	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.34	0.47
	22.6 (a)	24.6 (a)	23.0 (a)	19.2 (a)	
DEATHS—					
All Causes	11.3	12.1	11.2	12.6	11.21
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.24	0.28	0.22	0.31	0.12
Influenza	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.09
Smallpox	0.00	—	—	—	0.00
Acute poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.58	0.42
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)					
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal infection ...	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever	1.53	1.75	1.58	1.56	1.36
Whooping Cough	2.61	2.74	2.57	1.66	4.24
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.14	0.18
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Measles	8.86	10.11	8.49	9.23	15.10
Pneumonia	0.72	0.80	0.62	0.57	0.42
Acute poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencephalitis)					
Paralytic	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.09
Non-paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00
Food Poisoning	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.18	0.09
Puerperal pyrexia	17.87(a)	23.94(a)	10.22(a)	30.77(a)	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Live Births					
DEATHS—					
All Causes under 1 yr. age	27.6 (b)	31.2	25.8	23.8	41.45
Enteritis and diarrhoea					
under 2 years of age	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.7	0.03

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

Causes of Death.

(a) Tuberculosis:

There were 4 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and none from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1952, being equivalent to a death rate, per 1,000 population, of 0.12 from the pulmonary form, 0.00 from the non-pulmonary.

Comparative Table:

Year	No. of Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis Houghton-le-Spring	No. of Deaths from Non- Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non- Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non- Pulmonary Tuberculosis Houghton-le-Spring
1943	6	.557	.22	0	.111	.00
1944	13	.524	.44	5	.103	.18
1945	14	.519	.51	5	.100	.18
1946	8	not available	.28	2	not available	.07
1947	12	.47	.41	4	.079	.13
1948	15	.44	.51	1	.067	.03
1949	12	.40	.40	2	.054	.06
1950	15	.32	.40	1	.043	.03
1951	4	.27	.13	1	.041	.03
1952	4	.212	.12	0	.028	.00

(b) Heart Disease:

Heart disease was, as in former years, the chief cause of death throughout the area, 104 persons, being 54 males, and 50 females, were certified to have died from heart disease. This is equivalent to 29.88 of the total deaths and a mortality rate of 3.36 per 1,000 population.

Comparative Table:

Year	Total Deaths All Causes	Deaths due to Heart Disease			Death Rate per 1000 population		Percentage Total Deaths due to Heart Disease
		M	F		All Causes	Heart Disease	
1943	388	90	51	39	12.77	3.40	26.63
1944	321	77	38	39	11.84	2.84	23.99
1945	310	98	52	46	11.35	3.22	31.61
1946	338	92	47	45	11.86	3.22	27.22
1947	303	87	45	42	10.49	3.01	28.71
1948	323	110	60	50	11.00	3.61	34.05
1949	348	106	56	50	11.70	3.56	30.40
1950	346	107	54	53	11.4	3.52	30.92
1951	340	97	48	49	11.11	3.17	28.53
1952	348	104	54	50	11.21	3.36	29.88

Cancer.

54 deaths—being 30 males and 24 females, were due to cancer according to statistics supplied by the Registrar General. This is equivalent to a mortality rate of 1.74 per 1,000 population or 15.51 of the total deaths. This compares with a death rate for England and Wales of 1.99.

The following table shows the number of deaths due to cancer in Houghton-le-Spring and the mortality rate from this disease in the years 1943-1952.

Year	Number of Deaths				Mortality Rate per 1000 pop.
	Male		Female	Total	
1943	20	...	20	40	1.51
1944	17	...	22	39	1.44
1945	24	...	31	55	2.01
1946	27	...	21	48	1.68
1947	23	...	18	41	1.42
1948	20	...	21	41	1.39
1949	27	...	23	50	1.68
1950	28	...	18	46	1.51
1951	44	...	15	59	1.89
1952	30	...	24	54	1.74

Fear of operation and even a horror of diagnosis of cancer prevents a number of people from seeking medical advice early in the disease. Yet the efficacy of treatment, if given early, is steadily increasing. If all with any abnormality of health or unexplained swellings, particularly after the age of 45, would seek advice early many lives could be saved and much suffering avoided. Cancer in the early stages practically never causes pain.

Treatment by radium is available at Sunderland Royal Infirmary whilst the larger clinic for the North of England is at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.

Of the 54 deaths due to cancer 18 were to cancer of stomach and duodenum (a site usually often attacked) and 8 to cancer of the lung.

The following shows the sites of lesion, sex and age distribution of those who have died during 1952 from cancer as compiled from local returns.

Site.			Males—Ages.	Females—Ages.
Stomach	...	...	68, 65, 65, 80, 42, 71, 75.	70, 55, 84, 53, 74, 67, 72, 72, 66, 61, 80.
Bladder	...	...	65, 44.	
Ovaries	...	...		33, 66, 58.
Oesphagus	...	...	69, 64, 79.	
Rectum	...	...	73, 83, 83, 77.	84, 76, 48.
Lungs	...	...	46, 60, 57, 62, 60, 75, 52, 65.	
Colon	...	...	75, 84.	74.
Breast	...	...		60, 73, 78, 47.
Tongue	...	...	83, 87, 79.	
Vertebrae	...	...	4.	
Uterus	...	...		50, 47.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(see commencement of this report.)

The National Health Service Act which came into force on 5th July, 1948, made a certain difference in the administration of Health Services in County Districts. The chief points so far as this area is concerned are the transfer of (a) the Isolation Hospital to the Northern Regional Hospital Board, (b) the ambulance service to the County Council as the Local Health Authority, (c) the entire responsibility for Diphtheria Immunisation to the County Council. The County Council are also now responsible for the provision of nursing in the home. District nurses are employed by the County Council, but there is a very close liaison between the old County Nursing Association and the County Council in providing this service.

Ambulance Facilities

The National Coal Board continued to maintain their own ambulances to deal with accidents in the mines.

Other cases of accident or illness have been the responsibility of the County and the headquarters for this ambulance region of the County—covering Houghton-le-Spring, Hetton-le-Hole, West Rainton and the part of Sunderland Rural District south of the Wear—were placed at the Ambulance Station at Herrington Burn. The number of patients carried and the mileage covered has increased considerably every month. The increase has largely been on the number of sitting cases, quite a number of whom could, and previously did, travel by ordinary conveyance, and there are occasional gross abuses of the Service which are difficult to prevent.

Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination.

Diphtheria Immunisation of children under five years of age has been the responsibility of the County Council since 1st January, 1946, and from that date the work was done under the

auspices of the County District Councils, the County Council paying the cost thereof. The County District Councils remained responsible for the treatment of the 5-15 years group until 5th July, 1948, when that also passed to the County Council.

Whilst appreciating that this change was necessary we feel that some of the local enthusiasm has been lost and that there is probably increased apathy on the part of the public who know diphtheria is not so common as ten years ago and that deaths therefrom are not so numerous. This can be maintained only by having a large number, preferably 75 per cent, of the children under 15 years properly protected.

A considerable amount of periodical propaganda is necessary, more especially in the case of school children who have not been previously treated, and emphasising the importance of a reinforcing dose where a child has had previous treatment.

The following table shows the number of children immunised during the four quarters of 1952, also the number of reinforcing injections for which records were received.

	Under 5		5-14		Total	Reinforcement.	
1st Quarter ...	71	...	2	...	73	...	23
2nd Quarter ...	72	...	2	...	74	...	32
3rd Quarter ...	53	...	4	...	57	...	35
4th Quarter ...	62	...	2	...	64	...	21
	258	...	10	...	268	...	111

Vaccination, which is no longer compulsory, has been the responsibility of the County Council since 1930 through its "Public Vaccinators." Previous to 5th July, 1948, there was an exact record of the work done.

The following table shows the number of persons vaccinated and revaccinated, for which records were received, during the four quarters of 1952.

VACCINATED.

REVACCINATED.

	Under 1 year	1-4	5-14	15 years & over	Total	Under 1 year	1-4	5-14	15 years & over	Total
1st Qtr. ...	10	1	2	3	16	—	—	—	—	—
2nd Qtr. ...	13	—	1	2	16	—	—	2	7	9
3rd Qtr. ...	11	—	—	2	13	—	—	2	6	8
4th Qtr. ...	15	—	—	1	16	—	—	—	1	1
	49	1	3	8	61	—	—	4	14	18

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The supply of water in the Urban District was satisfactory generally, both in quality and quantity, but during the month of May when there was no rain, the level of the reservoirs fell by over 4 feet and emergency measures had to be adopted. The reservoirs had a storage capacity of $2\frac{1}{3}$ days supply, but the derelict North reservoir has now been repaired and put into use, hence increasing the storage by a half day's normal supply. Sanction from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the Booster Scheme, which will improve the supply to the Racecourse area, has not yet been obtained.

Six bacteriological examinations were made during the year and the results were very satisfactory. Samples were taken from the Houghton Colliery Standage tank, the intake from Sunderland and South Shields Water Company's bulk supply at the reservoir and from the mixture of both sources of supply in the town's mains.

Two chemical examinations were made and although the water was found to be hard and highly mineralised it was pure and in good condition. There have, however, been cases of discoloration due to manganese which was proved to have scaled off the mains.

The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action and no counter measures were taken.

Water is supplied to all houses throughout the area. There are no stand pipes now in use.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

New sewers have been laid to meet the housing development throughout the area.

The three sewage disposal works have during the year functioned fairly satisfactorily. In connection with the Flint Mill Works, it will be necessary in the near future to relay the outfall sewer which has subsided.

Closet Accommodation.

The number of each type of convenience at the end of 1952 was as follows:

Water Closets	9,356
Ash Closets'	22
Privy Middens	2

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The number of premises from which refuse is collected is approximately 9,294 which are divided into eight districts of about 1,100 and 1,200 houses each. The actual number of separate occupiers is slightly in excess of this figure by reason of dual tenancies. Each team consists of a driver-filler and two fillers. The foreman undertakes the collection of kitchen waste and most of the trade refuse in addition to his other duties. The present estimated cost is 27/6 per house per annum against a pre-war cost of 15/- per house. There has been a large decrease in the incidence of sickness this year, being 63 weeks time lost as compared with 82 weeks time lost in 1951. The various teams have carried out their duties satisfactorily and apart from occasional delays due to mechanical breakdowns, sickness and holiday periods the work has been performed with commendable regularity. The disposal of scavenging refuse in the district will in the near future, present a large problem as the Coxgreen Quarry, Copt Hill, Chilton Moor and Sedgeleth tips are steadily being filled in. The new layout of Council Housing Estates necessitates the addition of 50 to 60 yards travel to collect and return bins. Obviously this increases the cost of collection.

This Council has, during the past twelve months, supplied 58 bins in default. The galvanised bin is now available, the life being much longer than the painted sheet iron ashbin.

Salvage of Waste Materials.

Owing to the slump in the waste paper trade we were only able to dispose of 22 tons of baled paper and hardboard to the mills, the sum realised being £383, as against £1,106 in 1951, being a decrease of £724. This Authority has no contract with the Mills Board, all our supplies are sold to merchants.

The direction to salvage kitchen waste is still in operation in your district and entails collection and transportation to Sunderland. The collections for the past seven years have been as follows: 1946, 137 tons; 1947, 117 tons; 1948, 101 tons; 1949, 100 tons; 1950, 84 tons; 1951, 70 tons; 1952, 58 tons. Processed waste is still collected from the Sunderland Depot and delivered to those pig keepers in this district who require it—a charge being made for delivery. The following are details of the type and quantities of materials salvaged during the year: paper and cardboard, 22 tons; kitchen waste, 58 tons.

**Summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspector's Department
during the year 1952**

1. Public Health Acts.				Number of informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice
Dw'ling-houses	}	Foul Conditions	...	...	...	...
and		Structural Def'ts	95	...	...	81
Schools		Overcrowding	...	...	...	...
Lodging-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	7	...	...	7
Cowsheds	...	...	..	...	...	...
Bakehouses	...	...	5	...	...	5
Slaughter houses	...	...	11	...	...	11
Ashpits and Privies	..	..	2	...	...	...
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	9	...	...	9
Water Closets	...	...	24	...	...	24
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	1	...	...	1
House	}	Defective Traps	5	...	...	5
Drainage		No disconnection	...	...	...	...
		from sewers	36	1	27	...
Water Supply	...	Other Faults	8	...	8	...
Pigsties	...	...	10	...	9	...
Animals Improperly Kept	...	...	...	...	...	...
Offensive Trades	...	...	8	...	8	...
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	221	1	194	

II. Water, Food, and Drugs.	Number	Remarks
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ...	18	
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use ...	...
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	35 tons 10 c wts	
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ...	...	Chiefly meat, Public Slaughter House
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ...	52	
Samples found Adulterated ...	...
III. Precautions against Infectious Disease.		
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed ...	42	
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	42	
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things ...	...
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things ...	...
IV. General.		
Number of New Houses erected during year	147	Council 134 P.E. - 13
Number of such Houses occupied during year ...	147	
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets	...	
Ash-pit privies converted into Water-closets	...	
Ash-closets converted into Water-closets	...	
Total number of Water-closets in District	9356	
Total number of Ash-closets in District...	22	
Total number of Ashpit-privies in District	2	

Housing Repairs.

The high cost of labour and materials is retarding the work of repairs. In many cases the main cause underlying the disrepair of much privately owned property is the restriction of rents. Many small owners who previously maintained their property well now find themselves financially unable to do so. In some cases where recourse to legal action has been necessary it will take owners many years to re-inburse themselves. This position has largely resulted in owners refraining from carrying out repairs and improvements voluntarily, and even local contractors are often loth to estimate for works specified under the Housing Act.

Camping Sites.

This area is in the centre of the coal mining industry and there are no sites used for camping.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the schools was found to be generally satisfactory. Some of the older types need to be re-planned when circumstances permit.

It has never been necessary to request that a School should be closed on account of infectious disease. Speaking generally, infectious cases have been distributed throughout the district.

Cinemas, Public Houses, and Halls.

There are six cinemas in the district: Fence Houses, 1; Houghton, 3; Herrington Burn, 1; New Penshaw, 1.

These and other places of public entertainment were inspected during the year with respect to sanitary arrangements and generally speaking were found satisfactory.

Many of the licensed premises have had installed a supply of hot water, and in some cases, private bathrooms and other improvements to the sanitary accommodation were effected.

Eradication of the Bed Bug.

The work is supervised by the Sanitary Inspectors in co-operation with either tenant or owner. Periodical inspections are made to ensure that the tenants carry out the Inspector's instructions as much depends on the efforts of the tenants themselves.

	Infested	Disinfested
Number of Council Houses ...	1	1
Number of Other Houses ...	5	5

Prevention of Damage by Pests — Pests Act, 1949.

The number of cases of rat, mouse and other infestations reported have increased as the populace have realised the importance of reporting these cases to the Health Authority. Whilst most of these cases are of a minor character this has resulted in more of your Inspectors' time being taken up with giving assistance and advice, and making necessary visits.

Housing Conditions.

Housing Statistics for the year 1952

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year.

(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	529
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	872
(2)(a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts	105
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	184
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	6
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	246

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	231
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	2
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	1

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1)	Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	6
(2)	Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	1

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	1
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	—
	By Owners	...	...	...	...	—

Housing Improvements Act, 1949.

More advantage has been taken of this Act and improvements have been carried out to properties.

Housing.

134 houses were completed by direct labour, 13 were built by private enterprise. The types and location of the houses are shown on the attached table. All houses built were of the traditional type.

SITE	No. of houses erected prior 1952	No. of Houses erected during 1952		No. of Houses in course of erection at 31st December, 1952		TOTAL
		Perm. Prefabs.	Trad. Perm.	Perm. Prefabs.	Trad. Perm.	
Newtown	82	...	...	...	...	82
North Rectory	60	...	...	...	...	60
Villa No. 1 and 2	240	...	6	...	...	246
Chilton Moor	168	...	...	...	...	168
Colliery Row	64	...	...	...	...	64
Hetton Road	308	...	...	...	...	308
Hall Lane	65	...	...	...	...	65
Race Course	432	...	28	...	...	460
Grange Estate	284	...	34	...	78	396
Sedgeleitch	20	...	...	...	...	20
Hillside	72	...	...	...	...	72
Homelands	184	...	...	...	...	184
St. Aidan's	138	...	...	...	...	138
Park Estate	268	...	...	...	...	268
Station Road	56	...	...	...	...	56
Chandler Row	9	...	...	...	...	9
Chester Road Estate	276	...	...	...	...	276
New Penshaw	40	...	...	...	...	40
Penshaw Hill	96	...	...	...	...	96
Barnwell	466	...	4	...	...	470
Success	46	...	...	...	...	46
Cellar Hill Estate	12	...	62	...	100	174
	3386	...	134	...	178	3698

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Supplies.

During the year 47 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and generally were found satisfactory. Samples of milk after pasteurization were also taken. The sterilizing and bottling plant of the Houghton-le-Spring Dairymen's Association situate in the Lake is working satisfactorily and practically the whole of the milk in the district is supplied in bottles or cartons. Samples of ice cream were also submitted for examination. More small shops are now retailing ice cream and it is the practice for this to be wrapped and stored in a refrigerator cabinet. Inspection of dairy farms is now undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture officials.

Central Slaughter House.

The premises of the Co-operative Society Ltd., situate at Newbottle were taken over by the Ministry of Food and the carcasses of all animals slaughtered there have been examined by your Inspectors. The slaughter house serves for the Urban District of Hetton-le-Hole as well as for your own district.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year:

Cattle, 2,450; Cows, 189; Calves, 289; Sheep and Lambs, 9,550; Pigs, 1,651; making a total of 14,129, all of which were inspected.

The results of inspections are contained in the following tables:

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ...	2450	189	289	9550	1651
Number inspected	"	"	"	"	"
All diseases except T.B.—					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	6	6	21	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1026	69	2	211	40
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than T.B. ...	41.95	39.68	2.76	2.42	2.6
T.B. only—					
Whole carcasses condemned	6	22	—	—	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	462	58	—	—	67
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	19.1	42.32	—	—	4.3

WEIGHT CONDEMNED (in Lbs).

	Other Diseases			T.B.		
	Carcasses	Organs	Parts	Carcasses	Organs	Parts
Cattle— excl. Cows	824	14217	4056	3031	11219	2217
Cows ...	2957	10029	1824	10504	9954	932
Calves ...	277	23	7	—	—	—
Sheep ...	1019	1107	434	—	—	—
Pigs ...	263	116	324	1205	243	166
	5340	25492	6645	14740	21421	3315

Total Weight Condemned 34 tons 7 cwts.

Food and Drugs.

Unsound Food.

Considerable quantities of tinned and other goods in retail shops were found on inspection to be unsound and were destroyed. These included 224 tins luncheon meat, 71 tins cooked ham, 50 tins pork butts, 13 tins steak, 14 tins veal, 16 tins salmon, 2 tins beef loaf, 13 tins rabbit, 1 tin tongue, 1 tin sausage, 2 tins sardines, 4 tins mussels, 1 tin crab, 9 tins kidney, 1 tin chicken, 48 tins pork, 103 tins beans, 103 tins peas, 305 tins tomatoes, 10 tins soup, 44 tins oranges, 3 tins strawberries, 51 tins cherries, 12 tins damsons, 11 tins pineapples, 11 tins pears, 2 tins prunes, 35 tins greengages, 5 tins grapes, 1 tin raspberries, 3 tins blackberries 37 tins plums, 1 jar beetroot, 2 jars cabbage, 12 jars apricots, 4 jars bilberries, 3 tins apple puree, 15 tins Heinz baby food, 1 tin ravioli, 36 tins evaporated milk, 13 tins jam, 2 tins onions, 1 tin mincemeat, 3 jars sandwich spread, 5 tins cream, 331½ lb. chilled beef, 9 lb. chilled mutton, 35 lb. pork, 40 lb. ham, 78 lb. cooked ham, 8 lb. bacon, 5 lb. luncheon meat, 2 lb. spam, 11 lb. veal, 216 lb. pork sausage, 62 fish cakes, 18 packets cheese, 12 lb. cheese, 3 lb. flour, 17 lb. butter, 1×50 lb. box currants, 32 packets cereals, 25½ lb. sweets.

Shellfish.

There are no beds in the district.

Bakehouses.

Although a considerable quantity of bread and flour confectionery is imported into the district quite an appreciable quantity is produced in this area. The premises generally are kept in a cleanly and sanitary condition and attention is given to the personal hygiene of persons employed.

Ice Cream.

During the year 5 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and were satisfactory. Much of the ice cream consumed is imported (pre-packed) into the district

and sold by small retail shops. It is the practice to insist on an electric refrigerator for storage in these cases and to ensure that the premises and personnel are clean.

Fried Fish Shops.

The standard of cleanliness is well-maintained and in one establishment an all-electric range has been installed. Most of the ranges in the district are heated by coal. In most cases the assistants serving in these establishments are provided with white overalls and caps; a condition which we have sought to have included in the regulations.

Shops.

The inspection of slaughtered animal carcasses at the Government Slaughterhouse has not done away with the supervision of Meat and Prepared Meat Shops in the district and it is pleasing to say that any advice given to owners to improve the standard of cleanliness and hygiene of the premises is always well-received.

The standard of cleanliness throughout the district is high, particularly in food shops, and the proprietors are usually co-operative when suggestions are made to improve conditions in the shops.

Canteens.

The various canteens in which food is prepared for schools and factories are visited during the year, and a good standard of cleanliness is maintained.

Factories.

The following are the principal places within your district:

1. Philadelphia Engine Works and Repairing Shops.
2. Philadelphia Joinery Works.
3. N.E.S. Co. Electrical Power Sub-Station.
4. Sunderland and District Omnibus Co.
5. Co-operative Stores and Workshops.
6. Gas Works.
7. Joinery Works.
8. Boring Tool Works.
9. Printing Works.
10. Builders Merchants.
11. Candle Making.
12. Bakeries.
13. Sugar Confectioners.
14. Clothing Factories.
15. Iron Foundry.
16. Motor Repair Shops.
17. Boot Repairs.
18. Cement Blocks.
19. Packing Cases.
20. Building Works.
21. Travelling Cases.
22. Electrical Accessories.
23. Woodwork Machinery.
24. Milk Pasteurization.
25. Pickles.
26. Light Engineering Works.
27. Furriers.

During the year these have been inspected and any nuisances or defects found were remedied without the necessity for formal action.

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	90	107	6	...
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	...	...	...	...
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	4	4	...	...
Total	94	111	6	...

2.— Defects found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1) ...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding (S2) ...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable Temperature (S3) ...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6) ...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S7) :				
Insufficient ...	1	...	...	...
Unsuitable or defective ..	5	4	...	...
Not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
Other offences (Not including offences relating to outwork) ...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	6	4	...	...

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

During 1952 some 710 cases of infectious diseases (including all forms of Tuberculosis) were notified, an increase of 358 compared with the number of cases notified during 1951.

Scarlet Fever.

42 cases were notified as against 22 in 1951 and of these 28 were isolated in hospital.

The case incidence was 1.36 per 1,000 population, that for England and Wales being 1.53 per 1,000 civilian population.

The case incidence for the various wards was: Houghton, 1.21; Penshaw, 2.75; Newbottle, 1.12; Fence Houses, 0.00; and Herrington, 0.60.

Diphtheria.

There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during 1952, as compared with no cases in 1951. A number of cases which were suspected of having diphtheria were removed to hospital and were proved to be non-diphtheric. There were in 1952 no deaths in the district from this cause. Anti-toxin is available by day or by night at the Northern Isolation Hospital, or during office hours at the Public Health Department, Broadway, Houghton.

The incidence of diphtheria in the district was 0.00 as compared with 0.01 for England and Wales.

Immunisation

During 1952, 258 children under 5 years of age and 10 between 5 and 15 years were immunised and 111 were given a reinforcing injection.

At the end of 1952 approximately 1,998 or 75.36 per cent of the child population under five years and 3,167 or 62.93 per cent of those between 5 and 15 years of age were immunised.

It is extremely desirable that 75 per cent of all children in the area should be immunised and all efforts made to increase the numbers under 5 years of age. The County Council are carrying out propaganda with this in view. The importance of a boosting injection after three or four years must also be emphasised.

At the commencement of 1946 the County Council commenced free immunisation of children under 5 years of age at the Child Welfare Clinics but parents still have the option of having their children who are under five immunised by their family doctor or by the Child Welfare Medical Officer.

Influenza.

There was a slight epidemic of influenza at the beginning of the year, fortunately, on a whole of a mild character. 3 deaths were ascribed to this during 1952 as against 11 in 1951, and 2 in 1950.

There was 13 deaths ascribed as being due to pneumonia (some influenza pneumonia) as against 11 in 1951, whilst the number of cases of pneumonia notified were 13 as against 15 in 1951 and 38 in 1950.

Measles, Whooping Cough and Erysipelas.

Measles and Whooping Cough continued to be epidemic throughout the district in 1952. In 1952 there were 486 cases of measles and 131 cases of whooping cough notified as against 203 measles and 55 whooping cough in 1951.

During the year 2 deaths were ascribed to measles and no deaths to whooping cough.

For reasons previously explained no action was taken in the district for the use of measles serum for prevention or attenuation of the disease.

There is definite evidence of the much larger number of cases in the last 3 and the first 3 months of any year and of the tendency to epidemics occurring in two yearly cycles.

Considerable difficulty is encountered in the control of the spread of measles owing to its great infectivity during the few days preceding the rash when the parents of the children think the patient is only suffering from a common cold and infection have been spread before the diagnosis is made.

It is of great importance that when a child is suffering from measles it should be isolated so far as practicable from other children since complications may occur in this disease which are of grave import. Also parents who know that their children, who have not previously suffered from measles, have been in contact with a case should watch them very carefully especially during the third week after contact and isolate them if they should show symptoms, bleary eyes, "running" nose and cough, until it is certain after about four days time by the absence of a rash that the case is not one of measles.

It is also desirable that brothers or sisters who have not previously had measles should be kept from school especially during the third week after exposure if a case of measles occurs in their home.

There is no doubt that hospital treatment in complicated cases of measles or whooping cough is often of the greatest value. When accommodation is available in the Isolation Hospital these cases can be admitted.

There were 6 cases of Erysipelas notified during the year, none of which required hospital treatment.

During 1951, 2 cases of erysipelas were notified.

Infantile Paralysis.

During the year 1952, 3 cases of infantile paralysis were notified in the area.

School Notification of Disease

No fresh cases of any infectious disease was notified from the schools.

Notifiable Disease during the year 1952.

The incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, as notified in the district during the period under consideration, the number of cases which received treatment in hospital and the number of deaths from such infectious diseases are shown in the following table.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1952.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	42	28	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...
Enteric F. (incl. Paratyphoid)	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	1	1	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	...	...
Erysipelas	6	...	...
Pneumonia	13	...	13
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	...	1	...
Measles	486	...	2
Whooping Cough	131	...	...
Dysentery	2	...	...
Poliomyelitis	3	2	...
Polioencephalitis ... ..	...	...	...
Totals	684	32	15

The following table shows the following important facts, viz.: the age incidence of the cases of each of the various diseases including all forms of tuberculosis, the sex and age incidence of cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and the incidence of each disease in every Ward.

Cases of Infectious Diseases during 1952--Showing Age Incidence and Distribution.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified												Total No. of Cases Notified in Each Ward						Cases Removed to Hospital.	No. per 1000 Population.
	At Ages—Years												Houghton	Penshaw	Newbottle	Fence Houses	Herrington	Total		
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over								
Scarlet Fever	...	1	5	2	5	20	9	...	...	...	...	...	11	24	5	...	2	42	28	13.6
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	3	...	...	1	1	2	...	1	1	...	4	...	5	4	...	3	1	13	...	0.42
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	3	3	...	...	...	6	...	0.18
Pulmonary } Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	1	3	...	9	...	0.22
Tuberculosis } Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	1	...	...	6	3	2	...	...	11	...	0.35
Non-Pulmonary } Male	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	0.06
Tuberculosis } Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	...	0.06
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	1	0.06
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	0.03
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	0.06
Measles	23	56	60	76	82	179	7	3	1	...	...	...	220	140	37	64	25	486	...	15.10
Whooping Cough	7	15	17	28	17	47	...	...	...	...	...	...	66	29	17	12	7	131	...	4.24
Para-Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	3	2	0.09
Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	35	74	84	108	106	249	16	910	712	710	...	...	319	207	63	83	38	710	32	...

Case Rates for Infectious Diseases—Notifications per 1,000 Population.

Figures for England and Wales, 160 Smaller Towns are Provisional
Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns. Those for Houghton
Urban District are corrected.

Disease	England and Wales	160 Smaller Towns Resid- ent Pop'lations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census	Houghton Urban District
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever ...	1.53	1.75	1.36
Diphtheria ...	0.01	0.01	0.00
Enteric Fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas ...	0.14	0.15	0.18
Pneumonia ...	0.72	0.80	0.42
Measles ...	8.86	10.11	15.10
Cerebro- Spinal Fever ...	0.03	0.03	0.03
Whooping Cough	2.61	2.74	4.24
{ Poliomyelitis ...			
{ Polio- encephalitis ...	0.09	0.09	0.09

Prevention of Blindness.

Schemes for the above are entirely under the jurisdiction of the County Council.

Tuberculosis.

There has been no action taken during 1952 under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

New Cases of Mortality during 1952.

20 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, being 9 males and 11 females were notified or came to notice during the year, also 4 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis being 2 males and 2 females.

The following table shows the notifications of Tuberculosis, pulmonary and non-pulmonary, according to sex, for the period 1943-1952.

Year	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1943	12	7	19	11	4	15
1944	21	17	38	21	15	36
1945	14	9	23	22	18	40
1946	15	13	28	9	9	18
1947	14	10	24	3	4	7
1948	12	21	33	5	2	7
1949	14	21	35	2	3	5
1950	11	18	29	3	3	6
1951	18	29	47	3	5	8
1952	9	11	20	2	2	4

The following table shows the distribution of pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases of tuberculosis noted in 1952 according to sex and wards.

Ward	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Houghton	1	6	2	1	10
Penshaw	4	3	....	....	7
Newbottle	1	2	....	....	3
Fence Houses	3	....	....	1	4
Herrington	....	....	....	....	....
Totals ...	9	11	2	2	24

The following table shows the various age-periods for males and females, at which the new cases were notified and when death occurred.

Age Period			New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	...	...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 years	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 years	...	...	3	3	—	1	1	—	—	—
25 years	...	...	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 years	...	...	3	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
45 years	...	...	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55 years	...	...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	9	11	2	2	3	1	—	—

The figures in the death column are from locally compiled records.

Occupation.

Among the non-pulmonary cases 1 was under school age, 1 of no occupation, 1 a housewife and 1 a miner.

Of those suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis 3 were miners, 6 were housewives, 1 a motor mechanic, 1 under school age, 6 of unknown occupations, 1 a nursing sister, 1 a factory worker and 1 a shop assistant.

Sites of Lesions in Non-Pulmonary Cases.

2 meninges, 1 right hand and 1 neck glands.

Notification of Tuberculosis.

This seems to have been greatly improved within the past few years. Practitioners realise it is a duty and the patients or friends have learnt that notification is actually to help them since the sooner the County authorities know, the sooner they can help in treatment.

Examination of Sputa.

Sputa specimens are examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, the County Council paying the charge therefor.

Housing and Tuberculosis.

There is still evidence that a number of cases of tuberculosis are housed in poor conditions and that only too frequently sufferers from the pulmonary type are not occupying their own bedroom or even bed. It is important for the sake of all the other inmates of the house as well as for the improvement of the patient's condition that every endeavour should be made to provide the patient with his or her own bed—unshared by any—better still, a room solely for the use of the patient. I am glad to know that the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council has been sympathetic in consideration of such families who are applicants for Council houses, but even then much remains to be done by these families to use the accommodation to the best advantage.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

FAECES							SWABS (THROAT, NASAL & EAR)						SPU- TUM	
	Enteric		Dysentery		Organisms		Diphtheria (Culture)		Diphtheria (Virulence)		Organisms		Tuberculosis	
	No. of Spec.	Pos.	No. of Spec.	Pos.	No. of Spec	Pos.	No. of Spec.	Pos.	No. of Spec.	Pos.	No. of Spec.	Pos.	No. of Specfc.	Pos.
1st Qr.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	7
2nd Qr.	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2
3rd Qr.	12	...	...	...	4	...	2	...
4th Qr.	4	...	...	...	1	...	3	1
	4	...	16	...	...	...	5	...	50	10

Mass Radiography.

During the period 24th November to the 5th December, 1952, a mass radiography survey was carried out in the urban area, in which a total of 1,632 persons, being 919 males and 713 females, were X-rayed. Of this figure 110 were recalled for a large film X-ray and only 10 of this number failed to attend.

From statistics rendered it was noted that 62 persons 40 males and 22 females, were suffering from Non-Tuberculous conditions and 29 persons, being 14 males and 15 females, from suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

